

Preparing Your Dog for the Office

Taking your dog to the office can be a fun adventure if your dog has her office manners ready. No one wants your dog's muddy feet on their office attire, so if your dog can't sit politely for greetings, she's not ready for an office party just yet.

Practice by taking your dog out in the world. Every time someone wants to pet her, she must sit first. If she jumps up at any point, walk away from the person and make her sit again. She should only get what she wants when she's being polite. Make sure you reward her when she sits and greets people politely so she learns to behave appropriately when meeting people.

Your dog should also have practice calming down in a public place. There are plenty of places to practice:

- café patios
- coffee houses
- parks and dog-friendly beaches
- busy sidewalks
- pet supply stores

Some stores, like home improvement and nurseries, may also be dog friendly. However, be sure to ask before you bring your dog to visit!

Pull up a chair and ignore your dog. Once she settles down on her own, offering a "sit" or "down," praise and reward her. Keep the sessions short and gradually build up to an hour or more. This will help your dog settle down in your cubicle after greeting time has ended. Take her bed and teach her how to do a "down-stay" for a few minutes on the bed. This will keep her well-behaved so you can attend to work.

You don't want your dog dragging you around the office, so brush up on your loose-leash walking skills before taking her in the building. If your dog pulls, stop walking and wait for her to make the leash loose before you begin walking again. Don't let her drag you to other people or dogs. Have her sit politely until she is allowed to greet.

This will impress all your co-workers and ensure that your dog gets invited back next year!

Tips provided by the members of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers: www.apdt.com



Learn more about event creator PSI and the 2012 campaign partners on takeyourdog.com

